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***People are  
important.***

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The time span of these missions helps define the requirements to sustain these efforts. For example, in Macedonia, while one battalion is fulfilling the peacekeeping mission, another is preparing for the specific peacekeeping requirements in Macedonia, and a third battalion, having just completed the mission, redeploys to its home station and sharpens its skills for combat. This 3:1 ratio represents the numbers required to sustain the pace of our operational commitments worldwide. When you add up all of our operational deployments in places like Bosnia, Kuwait, Haiti, Honduras, Sinai, as well as Macedonia, it means that on any given day the Army commits the resources of approximately four divisions to sustain these efforts.

Because of increasing demands on our soldiers, the size of the Army—Active, Guard, and Reserve—does matter. There is a limit to how small we can be and still remain relevant and able to meet the needs of the nation. We must achieve a balance between the size of the Army and the nation's need to do more. The world environment tells us that our mission requirements are not going to decrease. Our Army must be adequately sized to meet the increased demands imposed by the nation while remaining prepared to fight and win our nation's wars. To date we have borne the strain of handling more missions with fewer people by mortgaging Army modernization accounts and through the sacrifices of soldiers who spend longer and longer periods deployed. People are important.

The capabilities we need to sustain fighting on the battlefield are also the capabilities needed to reassure our friends and allies and to support our own domestic needs. Presently, our force mix is not in balance with the demands of sustaining the effort across the spectrum of military operations around the globe. Meeting these new challenges without assuming unacceptable risk will require reshaping the total Army—Active, Guard, and Reserve—and the complementary roles that they play. Our Army must not only win multiple, high tech, mid-to-high intensity conflicts, but also meet the growing demands for reassurance and support.